Content Covered in the NCMHCE

The National Clinical Mental Health Counseling Examination (NCMHCE) consists of 10 simulated clinical mental health counseling cases. The simulations assess clinical problem-solving ability, including identifying, analyzing, diagnosing and treating clinical issues.

Each simulation is divided into approximately five to eight sections that are classified as either information gathering or decision making. Information gathering sections assess your ability to gather appropriate clinical data required to evaluate a situation or to make a decision. Decision making sections assess your ability to solve clinical problems by utilizing data to make judgments and decisions.

NCMHCE Content Areas

The simulations in the NCMHCE cover three content areas. Each content area includes a number of work behaviors.

The assessment and diagnosis content area includes but is not limited to the following work behaviors:
- Integrate client assessment and observational data
- Identify precipitating problems or symptoms
- Identify individual and/or relationship functioning
- Identify relevant family issues

The counseling and psychotherapy content area includes but is not limited to the following work behaviors:
- Inform client about ethical standards and practice
- Clarify counselor/client roles
- Implement individual counseling in relation to a plan of treatment
- Evaluate referral information

The administration, consultation and supervision content area includes but is not limited to the following work behaviors:
- Maintain case notes, records and/or files
- Determine if services meet client’s needs
- Correspond orally with others to maintain professional communications
- Assist clients with obtaining social services

How Is the NCMHCE Scored?

Each simulation option on the NCMHCE is assigned a weight ranging from +3 to -3 based on the level of appropriateness for effective client care. Your score will be determined for both information gathering and decision making sections. To pass the examination, you must obtain total scores equal to or greater than the minimum passing score for both information gathering and decision making.

NBCC will not release your examination score to a third party without your written permission. Learn more about score verification.

About NBCC
Contact Us
NDCC Store

Board of Directors
News and Events
Job Board

National Board for Certified Counselors, Inc. and Affiliates